



**OFFICE OF THE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE DIVISION WARNS OF PHONY INSPECTOR

Ron Natale, Manager of the Property Maintenance Division for the City of Reading, reports that someone claiming to be a property maintenance inspector knocked on the door of a residence on Spring Garden Street last night between 6:00 and 7:00 pm. "We usually don't conduct an inspection that late in the day for one thing," said Natale. "Our inspectors all wear white shirts and jackets which are clearly marked 'PMI' for Property Maintenance Inspector, and more importantly, they all carry City-issued identification cards. Over 90% of the time there is prior notice of an inspection, so it's rare for an inspector to just show up demanding entry into a property. No matter what, ask anyone claiming to be an inspector for their ID. My inspectors always show them immediately when someone answers the door. There should also be a marked city car parked outside as well."

The phony inspector did not gain entry into the residence, but Natale wants to warn residents not to let anyone claiming to be an inspector into their homes, and to immediately call the Department of Property Maintenance Division at (610) 655-6283, or the police non-emergency number at (610) 655-6116 if they are approached by someone they think is falsely identifying themselves as a Property Maintenance Inspector. "If there is a legitimate inspection going on, someone will be in our office to answer the phone," Natale added.

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